

Serial No.: 09/841,473
Title: Take-up reel with Uni-Directional Speed Governed Retractor
Amendment

Claim 2 is objected to on the grounds that the word "overrunning" was misspelled. Claim 2 has been amended in response to the objection.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 15, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S.P.N. 6,158,684 to Hedlund. Enclosed herewith is a Declaration under 35 U.S.C. § 1.131 antedating the Hedlund reference. As noted in the Declaration, Applicants conceived of the present invention before the February 1, 1999 filing date of the Hedlund reference and diligently worked toward an actual reduction to practice by April 8, 1999. February 1, 1999 is the earliest effective date of the Hedlund reference. Accordingly, pursuant to MPEP 715 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, since Applicants conceived of the present invention prior to February 1, 1999 and exercised due diligence from prior to February 1, 1999 to a subsequent reduction to practice in April 1999, Applicants have established invention of the subject matter of the present application prior to the effective date of the Hedlund reference and, therefore, Applicants request that Hedlund be removed as a reference and that the rejection of claims 1, 7, 9, 15, 17, and 18 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-6 and 10-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious considering Hedlund. For the reasons discussed above, Hedlund is not available as a reference because Applicants have established invention of the subject matter of the present application prior to the earliest effective date of Hedlund as a reference. Accordingly, applicants request that the rejection of claims 2-6 and 10-14 be withdrawn.

Claims 8, 16, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious considering Hedlund in view of Hiraoka. For the reasons discussed above, Hedlund is not available as a reference because Applicants have established invention of the subject matter of the present application prior to the earliest effective date of Hedlund as a reference. Pursuant to MPEP § 715.02, a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is overcome by swearing behind any one of the plural references relied on for the rejection. Accordingly, applicants request that the rejection of claims 8, 16, 19 and 20 be withdrawn.

Although the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 presented herein is presented after a

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final office action, the Declaration is presented in a first reply after the final rejection for the purpose of overcoming a new ground of rejection made in the final rejection and therefore should be considered timely pursuant to MPEP 715.09(C)(1).

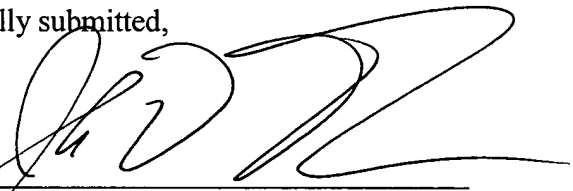
Conclusion

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

No new matter is introduced by the amendments herein. Based on the foregoing, applicants believe that all claims under consideration are in a condition for allowance and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

said unidirectional clutch assembly comprises a ramp and ball [~~overrunning~~] overrunning clutch.

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